## SIDNEY STRICKLAND AND ASSOCIATES, PLLC

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February 15, 2007

Honorable Vernon A. Williams Surface Transportation Board 1925 K Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20423-0001

218631



Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 433X); BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Clay and Norman Counties, MN.

Dear Secretary Williams:

BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—<u>Exempt Abandonments</u> to abandon a 5.40-mile line of railroad, between BNSF's milepost 15.60, near Georgetown in Clay County, MN, and milepost 21.00, near Perley in Norman County, MN. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the <u>Federal Register</u> on March 8, 2006 (71 FR 11707). The exemption became effective on April 7, 2006. The present consummation deadline is March 8, 2007.

Because BNSF has numerous abandonments currently in process, BNSF has encountered scheduling difficulties with its salvagers. This has led to a delay in the completion of necessary salvage activities. Accordingly, BNSF is requesting an extension of the consummation deadline until March 8, 2008.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by date stamping the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

Ten (10) additional copies of this letter are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 338-1325.

Sincerely,

Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.

SLS/cac